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Semicarbazones and thiosemicarbazones.

The invention relates to novel compounds of formula (A)

$$R - C = N - N - R^2$$
 (A)

wherein R^2 is the group -C(=NR¹⁰)-SR⁹ or -C(=X)-NHR¹⁰ and R. R³, R⁴, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are as stated in the specification, the synthesis thereof, the use of said compounds for the control of weeds and compositions for weed control comprising such compounds.

Description .

SEMICARBAZONES AND THIOSEMICARBAZONES

This invention relates to novel substituted semicarbazones, thiosemicarbazones, and isothiosemicarbazones, the synthesis thereof, the use of said compounds for the control of weeds, and compositions for weed control comprising such compounds.

The compounds of the present invention are represented by the following formula (A):

$$R - C = N - N - R^{2}$$

$$R^{3} R^{4}$$
(A)

wherein R is an heteroaromatic group selected from the groups G1 to G9,

in which R' is the carboxy group in free form, salt form or ester form or is the group CO-SR⁶ or CO-NR⁷R⁸, and

Y is H, C_{1-8} haloalkyl, C_{1-8} haloalkyl, C_{1-8} haloalkoxy, C_{2-8} alkenyloxy, C_{2-8} alkenyloxy, C

 R^2 is the group $-C(=NR^{10})-SR^9$ or $-C(=X)-NHR^{10}$,

40 R³ is H or C₁₋₈alkyl,

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R4 is H, C1-salkyl or 2-hydroxyethyl,

R7 and R8, independently, are H or C1-8alkyl or

R7 together with R8 is -(CH2)2-O-(CH2)2-,

each of R6 and R9 is, indepently, C1-8alkyl, C2-8alkenyl, phenyl or benzyl,

X is oxygen or sulfur,

R¹⁰ is one of the groups

$$z^{1} \xrightarrow{Z^{2}} W \qquad z^{1} \xrightarrow{W'} - W'' \xrightarrow{S^{55}} (G_{a}) \qquad (G_{b})$$

in which W, W' and W", independently, are N or CH, and

Z, Z¹ and Z², independently, are one of the significances specified for - but independent of - Y with the provisos that either

a) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form then R^2 is the group $-C(=NR^{10})-SR^9$ or

-C(=X)-NHR¹⁰, then R¹⁰ is the group (G_b), or

b) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, and R2 is the group

c) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, R2 is the group $-C(=X)-NHR^{10}$ and R^{10} is the group (G_a), then either i) one of Z, Z^1 and Z^2 is selected from C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{1-8} alkylthio and C_{1-8} haloalkoxy, ii) Z1 is C1-8alkyl, Z2 is halogen or C1-8alkyl and Z is H, or iii) Z1 and Z2 are both bromo, and Z is H, or iv) R4 is 2-hydroxyethyl. The terms C2-salkenyl-O and C2-salkenyl-O when used herein refer to C2-shydrocarbyloxy groups having I 10 or 2, preferably I, ethylenic bonds or I or 2, preferably I, acetylenic bonds resp. The terms C1-shaloalkyl, C1-salkoxy and C2-shaloalkenyloxy refer to C1-salkyl, C1-salkoxy and C2-salkenyloxy resp. substituted by one to six halogen. A preferred C₁₋₈haloalkyl group is CF₃. Preferred C₁₋₈haloalkoxy groups are C₁₋₄haloalkoxy groups and particularly OCF₃, OCHF₂ and OCF₂CHF₂. 15 Where R' is the carboxyl group in salt form, its cation is, for example, the cation of an alkali metal (e.g. the Li or Na cation) or of an earth alkali metal (e.g. the Ca cation); the ammonium cation; a substituted ammonium cation (such as C₁₋₂₀alkylammonium cation, a di-C₁₋₅-alkylammonium cation, a tri-C₁₋₅alkylammonium cation, a tetra-C₁₋₅alkylammonium cation, a (C₁₋₅alkoxy-alkyl)ammonium cation, a (hydroxy-C₁₋₅-alkoxy-C₁₋₅alkyl)ammonium cation, a (hydroxy-C₁₋₅alkyl)ammonium carbon); a phosphonium cation; a tri(C₁₋₈alkyl)sulfonium cation or a tri(C1-8-alkyl)-sulfoxonium cation; a hydroxy-C1-5alkylammonium cation or a di- or tri-(hydroxy-C₁₋₅alkyl)ammonium cation. Examples of preferred ammonium cations are the isopropyl-, octyl-, 2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl-, 2-hydroxyethyl-, dimethyl-, di-2-hydroxyethl-and the tri-2-hydroxyethyl-ammonium catlon. Where R' is a carboxy ester group (hereinafter COOR5), then R5 is for example C1-8alkyl, C1-8haloalkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkoxyalkyl, or CH(R¹¹)-O-C(=X')-R¹², wherein X' is O or S, and R¹¹ and R¹² are, independently, H or C1-8alkyl. R5 is preferably C1-4alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, allyl, C1-4haloalkyl or CH(R11)O-C(O)-R12 in which R11 is H or CH3 and R12 is C1-salkyl. Where any of R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12, Y, Z, Z1, Z2 or the cation of the carboxy group R' is or 30 comprises C1-8alkyl, such alkyl group or molety comprises preferably C1-5, more preferably C1-4e.g. I or 2 carbon atoms. The term C₁₋₈alkylthio refers preferably to C₁₋₄alkylthio, particularly CH₃S. The term C2-5alkenyl refers to hydrocarbyl groups having I ethylenic bond. Examples of prefered C2-5 alkenyl groups are $C(CH_3) = CH_2$ and allyl. 35 Y is preferably H, halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₄alkoxy. R is preferably group G₂ W is preferably CH. Z is preferably H. Z¹ is preferably H, C1-salkyl, C2-5alkenyl, C1-salkylthio, C1-s- alkoxy, C1-shaloalkoxy, halogen (F, Cl, Br, I) or Z² is preferably H, C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen or C₁₋₄alkoxy. Preferred groups G_b are 2-thiazole and 5-(C₁₋₄alkyl)-2-(I,3,4-thiadiazole). R' is preferably the carboxy group in free form, salt form or ester form. R² is preferably CO-NHR¹⁰. R3 is preferably CH3 or C2H5. 45 R4 is preferably H, CH3 or C2H5. Accordingly a particularly preferred gorup of compounds of formula (AA) is of formula (AA) 50 (AA) 55 R' is carboxy in free form, salt form or ester form. R^3 is CH_3 or C_2H_5 , R4 is H, CH3 or C2H5, Z1 is H, C1-2alkyl, methoxy, halogen (F, Cl, Br, I), CF3 or OCF3. 60 Z² is H, halogen (e.g. F, Cl), methyl or methoxy. Where in formula (AA) R' is COOH in salt form, preferred significances of its cation are, for example, the sodium, the ammonium, a C1-20-alkylammonium, a di-C1-salkylammonium, a hydroxy-C1-salkylammonium, a hydroxy-C₁₋₅alkylammonium, a di-(hydroxy-C₁₋₅alkyl)ammonium or hydroxy-C₁₋₅alkoxy-C₁₋₅alkylammonium cation. 65

Where in the formula (AA) R' is COOH in ester form (COOR5), a preferred significance of R5 is, for example, CH(R11)-O-C(O)R12, particularly such in which R11 is H, methyl, ethyl or sec. butyl and R12 is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, sec. butyl or tert. butyl).

Other preferred Z1 significances in formula (AA) are OCHF2 and OCF2-CHF2.

Other prefered R5 significances in formula (AA) are CH2CF3, C1-4-alkyl and phenyl. X is preferably O.

The compounds of formula (A) are obtained by

a) reacting a compound of formula I

 $R - C(= O) - R^3$ - 1

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wherein R and R3 are as defined above

with a compound of formula II

H₂N - NR²R⁴

wherein R2 and R4 are as defined above,

followed, where desired, by esterifying compounds of formula (A) wherein R' is the carboxyl group to compounds (A) wherein R' is a carboxyl-ester group, or

b) S-alkylating a compound of formula A₁

$$R - C = N - N - C - NHR^{10}$$

$$R - C = N - N - C - NHR^{10}$$

$$R - C = N - N - C - NHR^{10}$$

$$R - C = N - N - C - NHR^{10}$$

wherein R, R3, R4 and R10 are as defined above,

with a halogenide of formula III

R⁹Hal 111

wherein R9 is as defined above and

Hal is halogen.

or a reactive functional derivative of said compound of formula III

to give a compound of formula (A2)

$$R - C = N - N - C = NR^{10}$$

$$R^{3} R^{4}$$

$$(A_{2})$$

wherein R, R³, R⁴, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are as defined above.

The reaction of compounds of formula (I) with compounds of formula (II) may be effected under the conditions known for the preparation of (thio)semicarbazones starting from the corresponding (thio)carbazides.

The reaction is conveniently carried out in a solvent which is inert under the reaction conditions, e.g. in an alcohol such as methanol or ethanol. An acid catalyst such as pyridyl tosylate may be added to promote the reaction. A suitable reaction temperature is room temperature or moderately enhanced temperature (e.g. between iO and 40°C).

Compounds of formula (A) wherein R' is COOR5 may also be, and are in general preferably obtained by esterification of the corresponding compounds of formula (A) wherein R' is the carboxyl group, in free form or in salt form, e.g. alkali metal salt form, using the desired esterification agent. Suitable esterification agents are alkylating agents such as R5-halogenides, R5-mesylates and R5-tosylates or reactive functional derivatives thereof such as CH2N2.

The S-alkylation of thiosemicarbazones of formula (A₁) may be effected under the conditions known for the preparation of isothiosemicarbazones from thiosemicarbazones. In general, the reaction is carried out in a solvent which is inert under the reaction conditions, e.g. dimethylformamide. The compound of formula III is conveniently used as an lodide. It is in general advantageous to work in the presence of an acid binding agent, such as potassium carbonate. The R' group may partially or completely be esterified or its eventual R5 group interchanged, depending on the particular reaction conditions employed. Hydrolysis of such ester group followed, where desired, by treatment with an esterification (e.g. alkylation) agent for the introduction of the selected groupb R5, will then result in the desired compound of formula (A2).

Compounds of formula (A) wherein R1 is carboxy may be converted to the corresponding salts in conventional manner and vice versa.

The compounds of formula (A) may be recovered from the reaction mixture in which they are formed by working up by established procedures.

The compounds of formula (A) may exist in either the syn or the anti form, although the anti form usually

predominates.

The isothiosemicarbazones of the invention (see formula (A_2)) wherein \mathbb{R}^4 is hydrogen may also exist in the corresponding isomeric form

 $RR^3-C=N-N=C(SR^9)-NHR^{10}$.

The starting materials and reagents employed in the process described herein are either known or, insofar as they are not known, may be produced in a manner analogous to the process described herein or to known processes.

The compounds of formula (A) have herbicidal activity as observed after their pre-emergent or post-emergent application to weeds or a weed locus.

The term "herbicide" (or "herbicidal") refers to an active ingredient (or an effect) which modifies the growth of plants because of plant growth regulating or phytotoxic properties so as to retard the growth of the plant or damage the plant sufficiently to kill it.

Application of a compound of formula (A) is made according to conventional procedure to the weeds or their locus using a herbicidally effective amount of the compound, usually from IOO g to IO kg/ha.

The optimum usage of a compound of formula (A) is readily determined by one of oridinary skill in the art using routine testing such as greenhouse testing and small plot testing. It will depend on the compound employed, the desired effect (a phytotoxic effect requiring a higher rate than a plant growth regulating effect), the conditions of treatment and the like. In general satisfacotry phytotoxic effects are obtained when the compound of formula (A) is applied at a rate in the range of from 0.2 to 5.0 kg, more preferably of from 0.25 to 2.5 kg per hectare.

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While some of the compounds of formula (A), have activity on grass weeds, they demonstrate, in general, a higher level of herbicidal activity on broadleaf plants when applied post-emergence. Broadleaf plant (weed) species on which the compounds of the present invention show effective herbicidal activity include Brassica juncea, Amaranthus retroflexus, Abutilon theophrasti, Datura stramonium, Xanthium canadense, Cassia obtusifolia and Ipomoea purpurea.

When applied pre-emergence, the compounds of formula (A) demonstrate high levels of herbicidal activity on both broadleaf and grassy weeds.

The compounds of formula A in which R is an optionally substituted isothiazole or optionally substituted pyridine are particularly indicated for selective control of weeds in certain crop plants. These compounds and especially the isothiazoles are particularly suitable for use as selective herbicides in com. The isothiazoles also show selectivity in soybean locus.

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The compounds of formula (A) may be advantageously combined with other herbicides for broadspectrum weed control. Examples of herbicides which can be combined with a compound of the present invention include those selected from the carbamates, thiocarbamates, chloroacetamides, dinitroanilines, benzoic acids, glycerol ethers, pyridazinones, uracils and ureas for controlling a broad spectrum of weeds.

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The compounds of formula (A) are conveniently employed as herbicidal compositions in association with agriculturally acceptable diluents. Such compositions also form part of the present invention. They may contain, aside from a compound of formula (A) as active agent, other active agents, such as herbicides. They may be employed in either solid or liquid forms e.g. in the form of a wettable powder or an emulsifiable concentrate, incorporating conventional diluents. Such compositions may be produced in conventional manner, e.g. by mixing the active ingredient with a diluent and optionally other formulating ingredients such as surfactants.

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The term diluents as used herein means any liquid or solid agriculturally acceptable material which may be added to the active constituent to bring it in an easier or improved applicable form, respectively to a usable or desirable strength of activity. It can for example be talc, kaolin, diatomaceous earth, xylene, or water.

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Particularly formulations to applied in spraying forms such as water dispersible concentrates or wettable powders may contain surfactants such as wetting and dispersing agents, e.g. the condensation product of formaldehyde with naphthalene sulphonate, an alkylarylsulphonate, a lignin sulphonate, a fatty alkyl sulphate, an ethoxylated alkylphenol and an ethoxylated fatty alcohol.

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In general, the formulations include from O.OI to 90% by weight of active agent and from O to 20% by weight of agriculturally acceptable surfactant, the active agent consisiting either of at least one compound of formula (A) or mixtures thereof with other active agents. Concentrate forms of compositions generally contain between about 2 and 90%, preferably between about 5 and 70% by weight of active agent. Application forms of formulation may for example contain from 0.0! to 20% by weight of active agent.

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The following examples are provided to illustrate the practice of the present invention. Temperature is given in degrees Centigrade. "RT" means room temperature. Parts and percentages are by weight. The symbols *, and + when used in connection with melting points mean "gas", "softens" and "decomposes" resp.

Example I: 3-Acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid 4-(3-fluorophenyl)semicarbazone

To a solution of 3-acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid (3.08 g, l8.0 mmol) in methanol is added to a solution of 4-(3-fluorophenyl)semicarbazide (3.04 g, 18.0 mmol) in methanol. The mixture is stirred at RT for 3 hours, after which the solid precipitate is collected by filtration, washed with methanol and with ether and dried to give 3-acetyl-4-iso-thiazole-carboxylic acid 4-(3-fluorophenyl)semicarbazone, m.p. 222° (dec.) (compound 13,

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Treatment of the thus obtained acid with I equivalent of a base gives the corresponding salt.

Example 2

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Following the procedure of Example I, the following semicarbazone or semicarbazone compounds under Table A to C are prepared from the corresponding semicarbazide or semicarbazide and acetyl compound.

				0	TABLE A				
10			(N	Ţċ	OH = N - N - C H ₃ R ⁴	K : - N	H -\	$\sum_{z_1}^{z_3} z^2$	(Formula A _l)
15	Cpd.	,			•	•	•	m.p.	
	No.	<u>R</u> 4	<u>X</u>	Z	$\frac{Z^1}{Z^1}$	z ²	z^3	acid	Na salt
20	1.	Н	0	H	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	198≉	228*
20					-	,	-	228	
	2	H	0	Н	$C(CH_3)=CH_2$	Н	Н	171-173	213+
25	3	Н	0	H	Br	Н	Br	202*	
	4	Н	0	Н	SCH ₃	Н	Н	174-175*	208-209
	5	Н	0	Н	OCF ₃	H	H	191-192*	225-227
30	6	Н	0	Н	OCHF ₂	Н	Н	193*	208-212
	7	Н	0	Н	OCF2CHF2	Н	Н	•	
	8	сн ₂ сн ₂ он	0	Н	F	Н	H.	146-148*	80-83*
<i>35</i>	9	н	0	Н	CH ₃	F	Н	222-230	220*

TABLE B

$$\frac{\text{Cpd.no.}}{\text{N}} = \frac{\frac{\text{R}_{10}}{\text{C} + \text{N} + \text{N} + \text{CO} - \text{NH} - \text{R}_{10}}{\frac{\text{ch}_3}{\text{acid}}} = \frac{\frac{\text{Na-salt}}{\text{So}}}{\frac{\text{acid}}{\text{N} + \text{So}}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Na-salt}}{\text{So}} = \frac{10}{11} = \frac{164\%,235 + 219\%}{\text{So}}$$

5-ethyl-2-(1,3,4-thiadiazole)

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232-235*

TABLE C

TABLE C (Cont'd)

Cpd	ġ,	<u>0''</u>	9'''	<u>R</u> ³ .	<u>R</u> ⁵	<u>x z z¹</u>	<u>z</u> 2	<u>z</u> 3	acid	<u>Na salt</u>
35	S	N	СН	CH3	о сн ₂ осс(сн ₃) ₃	0 H F	H	H .	159-169	• -
36	S	N	СН	CH3	о сн ₂ осс (сн ₃) ₃	о н ст	H.	Н	155-165	-
37 38	S S	N N	CH CH	CH3	о сн ₂ осс(сн ₃) ₃ с ₆ н ₅	0 H C1 0 H F	H H	C1 H	183 - 194	-
39	S	N	СН	CH3	CH ₂ CF ₃	0 H F	H	Н	200-201	
40	S	N	CH	CH ₃	H	O H OCHF ₂	Н	Н		:
41	S	N	CH	CH3	H 	O H OCF ₃	H	Н		•
42	. S	N	CH.	CH ₃	Н .	O H OCF2CHF2		H		
43	CH	0	N	CH3	Н	0 H F	Н	H	252-253+	
44	S	Ņ	СН	CH3	сносс(сн ₃) ₃	0 H F	Н	н	158-160	·-
45	\$	N	СН	CH ₃	о сноёснсн ₂ сн ₃ сн ₃ сн ₃	0 H F	H	н	134-135	-
46	N .	N-CH ₃	СН	CH ₃	Н .	OHF	H	Н	290-293+	250-260+
47	S .	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	O H OCF ₃	H	H	218*	223*
48	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	O H OCHF ₂	Н	Н	204*	215*
49	S	N	CH	CH3	н	0 н _	F	Н	243*	195-201*
50	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н .	0 C1 H	Н	H	218*	208-212
51	S	N	CH	CH3	н -	онн	C1	Н	249-253*	203-209
52	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	онн с	Н ₃	H	237-239	216-226+
53	S	N	CH	CH3	н	0 H OCH ₃	H	Н	199*	208-210

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TABLE C (Cont'd)

Сро	0'	<u>Q'</u>	<u>' Q'''</u>	$\frac{R^3}{}$	<u>R</u> 5	X	<u>z</u>	<u>z</u> 1 .	<u>z</u> 2	\underline{z}^3	acid	Na salt	
54	S	N	СН	CH ₃	H	0	CH3	Н	Н	Н	276-278	194-200	• 5
55	S .	N	CH	CH3	Н	0	н	H	OCH ₃	H	195*	193-203	
56	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	0	0CH3	. Н	ň	Н	214*	221*	
57	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	0	F	H	H	Н	216*	246*	10
58	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	0	H.	CH3	. F	Н	222*	206-220*	
59	S	N	CH	CH ₃	Н	0	Н	CF ₃	H	Н	276	234-235	
60	S	N	C-CH ₃	CH3	Н	0	Н	Γ	H	H	189-192*	255*	15
61	S	N	c-c1	CH3	Н	0	H	F	Н	Н	209-210*	260-268	
62	S	N	C-OCH ₃	CH ₃	Н	0	Н	F	H	Н		193-195*	
63	S .	N	сн	CH3	CH ₂ CF ₃	0	Н	C1	Н	Н	178-182	- ,	
64	S	N	СН	CH ₃	C6H5	0	H	Cl	Н	Н	206-208	-	20

Example 3
The sodium salt of Compound 4 is reacted with chloromethyl-2,2-di-methylpropanoate to give t-butylcarbonyloxymethyl-2-acetylnicotinate 4-(3-methylthiophenyl)semicarbazone (m.p. l33-l34°) (Compound 65).

TABLE D

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5				: - 0 - : = N - ::	R ⁵ S - R ⁹ N = C - NH		(form	ula A ₄)
10	Cpd.			J			m.p.	•
	No.	_R 5	<u>R</u> 9		$\underline{z^1}$	m.p.°	Na salt N	H4 salt
15	66	н	СН	3	н	140-142*	110-120# 140*	
20	66(A)	CH ₃	СН	3	н	156-159	-	-
	67	Н	СН	3	C1	70# 100 - 110*	108#, 134*	
25	68	Н	СН	3	F-	80-83	155+	87-90
	69	Н	СН	2 ^{CH} 3	F	71-73	140-143	
30	70	Н	CH ₂ C	H=CH ₂	F	126-127	157-160	
	. 71	Н	CH ₂ -	C ₆ H ₅	F.	158-159	115-117	
<i>35</i>	72	Н	СН	3	CH3	88 [†]	64#, 119	
35	73 (ж ₂ 0с(0)c(cH ₃) ₃	CH3	н	75-78#	-	-
40	74 (:H ₂ 0C(0)c(cH ₃) ₃	CH ₃	C1	(viscous yellow oil)	, -	-
	75 (CH ₂ OC(0)c(CH ₃) ₃	CH ₃	F	(o i 1)	-	-

Example 4

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To a mixture of 2-acetylnicotinic acid 4-phenyl-thiosemicarbazone (8.0 g, 23.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (6.5 g, 47.0 mmol) in 50 ml of dimethylformamide is added 2.9 ml (6.67 g, 47.0 mmol) of methyl iodide. The mixture is stirred at RT overnight, and is then poured into ether/CHCl₃ and water. The organic phase is separated, washed with sodium bicarbonate and with brine and dried and the solvent is removed to give, following crystallization from CH₃CN, the corresponding isothiosemicarbazone (compound 66(A), Table D) as a mixture of isomers.

To a suspension of the above ester (5.2 g, 15.2 mmol) in 80 ml of methanol is added a solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.638 g, 15.2 mmol) in 7 ml of water. The suspension is heated to 60° for 7 days, after which the reaction mixture is cooled and the solid is filtered out. The remaining solution is concentrated by rotoevaporation, and conc. HCl and water are added. The resulting solid is collected by vacuum filtration to give compound 66 under Table D.

Example 5

To a suspension of 2-acetylnicotinic acid 4-(3-chlorophenyl)thiosemicarbazone (I5.O g, 43.I mmol) in IIO ml of methanol is added sodium methoxide (4.65 g, 86.2 mmol), followed by addition of methyl iodide (6.12 g, 43.I mmol). The mixture is stirred at RT for 3 hours, after which the solvent is removed by rotoevaporation. The residue is taken up in water and extracted with chloroform. The aqueous fraction is acidified with dilute HCl and extracted with chloroform. The chloroform extract is washed with water and with brine and dried, and the solvent is removed to give Compound 67 under Table D.

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Following the above procedures, 2-acetylnicotinic acid 4-(3-fluorophenyl)thiosemicarbazone is reacted with each of methyl iodide, bromoethane, allyl bromide and benzyl bromide to give, respectively, compounds 68-71 under Table D.

Example 6	_
Following the procedures of Example 5, each of Compounds 25 and 26 is reacted with methyl iodide to give, respectively, 3-acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid S-methyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)isothiosemicarbazone, m.p.	5
49-153° (Compound 76), and 3-acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid S-methyl-4-(3-fluorophenyl)isothiosemicar-	
bazone, m.p. 145-148° (Compound 77).	
Each of Compounds 76 and 77 is reacted with sodium methoxide to give:	10
the sodium salt of compound 76, m.p. 122-130°, and	
the sodium salt of compound 77, m.p. lt6-l36°.	
Example 7	
The sodium salt of each of compounds 76 and 77 is reacted with chloromethyl 2,2-dimethylpropanoate to	15
give, respectively,	,,
t-butylcarbonyloxymethyl 3-acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylate S-methyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)lsothiosemicarba-	
zone, viscous yellow oil (Compound 78), and	
t-butylcarbonyloxymethyl 3-acetyl-4-isothlazolecarboxylate S-methyl-4-(3-fluorophenyl)isothlosemicarba-	
zone, m.p. 68-74° (Compound 79).	20
Example 8	
2-Acetylnicotinic acid chloride (I.O g, 5.5 mmol) and morpholine (O.6 g, 6.7 mmol) are reacted together to	
give 4-(2-acetylnicotinyl)morpholine, which compound i.O g, 4.2 mmol) is then reacted with 4-(3-fluorophe-	
nyl)semicarbazide (0.7 g, 4.2 mmol) to give 4-(2-acetyl-nicotinyl)morpholine 4-(3-fluorophenyl)semicarba-	25
zone, m.p. 193-195° (Compound 8O).	20
Example 9 Examples of suitable salt forms of compounds of formula (A) are:	
of compound	
I3, the isopropylammonium salt, m.p. II3-122°	30
67, the isopropylammonium sait, m.p. 98-IIO°	
68, the isopropylammonium salt, m.p. 6i-63°	
69, the isopropylammonium salt, m.p. 70-73°	
7O, the isopropylammonium salt, m.p. 57-60°	20
7I, the isopropylammonium sait, m.p. 66-68°	35
IO, the isopropylammonium salt, m.p. 265-269° (dec.)	
l3, the 2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 78-86°	
of compound	
27, the 2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 165° (gas)	40
28, the 2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 75° (softens),95°	
29, the 2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 82-84°	
I3, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 174°	
14, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 168°	
67, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. IO8° (softens), II2° (dec.)	45
22, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. l62-l68° 27, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt m.p. l68° (gas)	
28, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 148-151°	
29, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 168-170°	
3I, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 48-70° (sinters), I57-I6I°	
68, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 128-130°	50
70, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. I77-I79° (dec.)	
77, the di-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. 137-140°	
13, the tri-2-hydroxyethylammonium salt, m.p. I40° (gas)	
l3, the 2-(2-hydroxyethoxyl)ethylammonium salt, m.p. I50°	55
l3, the dimethylammonium salt, m.p. 163-165°	~
14, the dimethylammonium salt, m.p. 230°	
67, the dimethylammonium sait, m.p. 138-140° (gas)	
68, the dimethylammonium salt, m.p. 53-55°	
76, the dimethylammonium salt, m.p. 145-153°	60
i3, the octylammonium salt, m.p. 245-255°	

INTERMEDIATES

Example IO

Ethyl 3-amino-2-pentenoate (20 g) in 45 ml dimethylformamide is chilled to -78°. Phosphorous oxychloride (25.7g) is added, keeping the temperature between -IO and -30°. A solid forms and the mixture is then diluted with I2 ml methylene chloride. The resulting mixture is rapidly added to a chilled solution of 5l g sodium sulfide nonahydrate in I5O ml water. Methylene chloride is added to the orange mixture, and the mixutre is stirred I hr at room temperature. I2.5% Aqueous sodium hypochloride (98 ml) is added, and is backwashed with water and with aqueous sodium thiosulfate, dried, filtered and stripped. The residue is distilled to yield ethyl 3-ethyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylate.

10 Example II

Ethyl 3-ethyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylate is reacted with N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) and benzoyl peroxide to give ethyl 3-(I-bromoethyl)-4-iso-thiazolecarboxylate, which is then reacted with sodium bicarbonate and dimethylsulfoxid and the resulting ethyl 3-acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid.

15 Example I2

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Methyl 4-ethyl-5-thiazolecarboxylate is reacted with NBS and 2,2'-azobis(2-methylpropionitrile) to give methyl 4-(I-bromoethyl)-5-thiazolecarboxylate, which is then reacted with sodium bicarbonate, or alternatively with potassium carbonate, and dimethylsulfoxide and the resulting methyl 4-acetyl-5-thiazolecarboxylate is treated with lithium hydroxide monohydrate to yield 4-acetyl-5-thiazolecarboxylic acid.

BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

Example 13

Pre-emergence herbicidal activity of selected compounds of the present invention was determined as follows: Seeds of selected weeds are planted and the soil was drenched with a solution of water (I7 %), surfactant (O.I7 %) and the test compound at a rate equivalent of IO lb)/acre. Scoring was made two weeks after treatment. The grasses (GR) Setaria viridis, Echinochloa crus-galli, Sorghum bicolorand Avena fatua and the broadleafs (BL) Ipomoea purpurea, Brassica juncea, Solanum nigrum and Abutilon theophrasti were treated. The test results indicate pre-emergent herbicidal activity of the compounds of the invention.

Example I4

Post-emergence herbicidal activity of selected compounds of the present invention was tested as follows: Seedlings of selected weeds were sprayed with a solution of water/acetone (I:I), surfactant (0.5%) and the test compound at a rate equivalent to IO lb/acre. Scoring was made two weeks after spraying. The grasses (GR) Setaria viridis, Echinochioa crusgalli, Sorghum bicolor and Avena fatua and the broadleafs (BL) Ipomoea purpurea, Brassica juncea, soybean and Abutilon theophrastic were treated. The test results indicate post-emergent herbicidal activity of the compounds of the invention.

COMPOSITION EXAMPLES

Example I5

A. Water dispersible powder

The sodium salt or the isopropylammonium salt of Compound I3 is dissolved to the desired percentage concentration in water containing 0.5% surfactant (e.g., a I:I:I mixture of sorbitan monolaurate : polyoxyethylene[20]sorbitan trioleate).

B. Suspension concentrate - 26 %

Compound I3 (acid form) 26 %

propylene glycol 73 %

octyl phenoxypoly[ethylene-oxy]ethanoi. 1 %

The above components are mixed and wet-milled to 5-IO micron particle size.

C. Wettable powder - 50 %

sodium salt of Compound 13 50 %

sodium lignosulfonate 4 %

sodium dialkylnaphthalene sulfonate 1 %

kaolin 45 %.

The above components are mixed and dry-milled. The resulting mixture is added to water for spraying.

Claims

Compounds of formula (A)

$$R - C = N - N - R^2$$
 (A)

wherein R is an heteroaromatic group selected from the groups G_1 to G_9 ,

in which R' is the carboxy group in free form, salt form or ester form or is the group CO-SR 6 or CO-NR 7 R 8 , and Y is H, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₈haloalkyl, C₁₋₈haloalkoxy, C₁₋₈haloalkoxy, C₂₋₈alkenyloxy, C₂₋₈alkynyloxy, phenyl, phenoxy, C₂₋₅alkenyl, C₁₋₈alkylthio, OH, halogen, nitro or cyano, R 2 is the group -C(=NR 10)-SR 9 or -C(=X)-NHR 10 ,

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R3 is H or C1-8alkyl,

R4 is H, C1-8alkyl or 2-hydroxyethyl,

R7 and R8, independently, are H or C1-8alkyl or

R7 together with R8 is -(CH2)2-O-(CH2)2-,

each of R^6 and R^9 is, independently, $C_{1\text{--8alkeyl}}$, $C_{2\text{--8alkenyl}}$, phenyl or benzyl,

X is oxygen or sulfur,

R¹⁰ is one of the groups

$$z^{1} \xrightarrow{Z}_{(G_{a})}^{W'} \xrightarrow{W''}_{S} \xrightarrow{W'}_{S}$$

in which W, W' and W", independently, are N or CH,

and Z, Z^1 and Z^2 , independently, are one of the significances specified for - but independent of - Y with the provisos that either

- a) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, then R^2 is the group $-C(=NR^{10})-SR^9$ or
- b) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form and R^2 is the group $-C(=X)-NHR^{10}$, then R^{10} is the group (G_b) , or
- c) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, R^2 is the group $-C(=X)-NHR^{10}$ and R^{10} is the group (G_B) , then either
 - i) one of Z, Z¹ and Z² is selected from C₂₋₅alkenyl, C₁₋₈alkylthio and C₁₋₈haloalkoxy,

ii) Z1 is C1-8alkyl, Z2 is halogen or C1-8alkyl and Z is H, or

iii) Z1 and Z2 are both bromo, and Z is H, or

iv) R4 is 2-hydroxyethyl.

2. The compound of Claim I, wherein R' is the carboxy group in free form, in salt form or in the ester form 6.

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COOR5.
           Y is H, halogen, C1-4alkyl or C1-45alkoxy,
           R3 is CH3 or C2H5,
           R4 is H, CH3, C2H5 or 2-hydroxyethyl,
            R5 is C1-4alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, allyl, C1-4haloalkyl or CH(R11)-O-C-(O)-R12,
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            R9 is C1-4alkyl, C2-5alkenyl, phenyl or benzyl,
            R<sup>10</sup> is either group G<sub>a</sub> in which
           Wis CH.
            ZisH
            Z1 is H, C1-8alkyl, C2-5alkenyl, C1-8alkylthio, C1-8alkoxy,
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            C1-8haloalkoxy, halogen or CF3,
            and Z2 is H, C1-4alkyl, halogen or C1-4alkoxy or is 2-thiazole or 5-(C1-4alkyl)-2-(I,3,4-thiadiazole),
            R11 is H or CH3, and
            R12 is C1-Balkyl.
               3. The compound of Claim I or 2, wherein R is group G<sub>1</sub>.
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               4. The compound of Claim I or 2, wherein R is group G9.
               \overline{5}. The compound of Claim I or 2, wherein R is selected from the groups G_2 to G_8.
               6. The compound of Claim 5, wherein R is group G2.
               \overline{7}. The compound of Claim 3, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is the group -C(=NR<sup>10</sup>)-SR<sup>9</sup>.
               8. The compound of Claim 4, wherein R^2 is the group -C(=NR<sup>10</sup>)-SR<sup>9</sup>.
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               \overline{9}. The compound of Claim 5, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is the group -C(=NR<sup>10</sup>)-SR<sup>9</sup>.
               \overline{10}. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R^2 is the group -C(=NR^{10})-SR^9.
               II. The compound of Claim 6, wherein
            R3 is CH3 or C2H5,
            R4 is H, CH3 or C2H5,
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            Z1 is H, C1-2alkyl, methoxy, halogen, CF3 or OCF3,
            Z<sup>2</sup> is H, halogen, methyl or methoxy.
            R2 is C(X)-NHR10,
            R<sup>5</sup> is CH(R<sup>11</sup>)-O-C(O)-R<sup>12</sup>,
            R<sup>11</sup> is H, methyl, ethyl or sec. butyl,
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            and R12 is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, sec. butyl or tert. butyl.
               12. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^{11}, R^{12} and Z^2 are as defined in Claim II and Z^1 is
            OCHF2 or OCF2-CHF2.
               13. The compound of Claim 6, wherein R2, R3, R4 and Z2 are as defined in Claim II, Z1 is H, C1-2alkyl.
            methoxy, halogen, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, OCHF<sub>2</sub> or OCHF<sub>2</sub>-CHF<sub>2</sub> and R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub> or phenyl.
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               14. The compound of any one of Claims I to I3, wherein X is O.
               15. 3-Acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid 4-(3-fluorophenyl)semicarbazone, in free acid form, salt form
            or ester form.
               16. The compound of Claim I5 in free acid form.
               17.The compound of Claim 15 in salt form.
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               18. Process of preparing a compound of formula (A) stated in Claim I,
            which comprises
                    a) reacting a compound of formula I
                   R - C(=0)-R^3
                  wherein R and R3 are as defined in Claim I
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                  with a compound of formula II
                   H<sub>2</sub>N - NR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>4</sup>
                  wherein R2 and R4 are as defined in Claim I,
                  followed, where desired, by esterifying compounds of formula (A) wherein R' is the carboxyl group to
                  compounds (A) wherein R' is a carboxyl-ester group, or
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                     b) S-alkylating a compound of formula A<sub>1</sub>
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wherein R, R³, R⁴ and R¹⁰ are as defined in Claim I,
with a halogenide of formula III
R⁹Hal III
wherein R⁹ is as defined in Claim I,
Hal is halogen,
or a reactive functional derivative of said compound of formula III

to give a compound of formula (A2)

$$R - C = N - N - C = NR^{10}$$
 (A₂)

wherein R, R3, R4, R9 and R10 are as defined in Claim I,

and isolation thereby any compound of formula (A), wherein R' is carboxy in free form or in salt form.

- 19. A herbicidal composition comprising a compound of formula (A) according to any one of Claims I to I7 and an agriculturally acceptable diluent.
- 20. A method of combatting weeds which comprises applying to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (A) according to any one of Claims I to I7.
 - 21. The method of Claim 20 which comprises selectively combatting weeds in a crop locus.
- 22. The method of Claim 2I which comprises applying a compound of any one of Claims 6 and II to I7, to a corn (Maize) or soybean locus.

Claims for the following Contracting States: AT; ES

i. Herbicidal compositions comprising a compound of formula (A)

$$R - C = N - N - R^2$$
 (A) 28

wherein R is an heteroaromatic group selected from the groups G1 to G9,

$$(G_1)$$

$$(G_2)$$

$$(G_3)$$

$$(G_4)$$

in which R' is the carboxy group in free form, salt form or ester form or is the group CO-SR⁶ or CO-NR⁷R⁸, and Y is H, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₈haloalkyl, C₁₋₈haloalkoxy, C₁₋₈haloalkoxy, C₂₋₈alkenyloxy, C₂₋₈haloalkenyloxy, C₂₋₈alkynyloxy, phenyl, phenoxy, C₂₋₅alkenyl, C₁₋₈alkylthio, OH, halogen, nitro or cyano, R² is the group -C(=NR¹⁰)-SR⁹ or -C(=X)-NHR¹⁰,

R3 is H or C1-salkyl,

R4 is H, C1-8alkyl or 2-hydroxyethyl,

R7 and R8, independently, are H or C1-Balkyl or

R7 together with R8 is -(CH2)2-O-(CH2)2-,

each of R⁶ and R⁹ is, independently, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₈alkenyl, phenyl or benzyl,

X is oxygen or sulfur,

R¹⁰ is one of the groups

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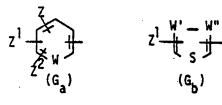
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in which W, W' and W", independently, are N or CH,

and Z, Z^1 and Z^2 , independently, are one of the significances specified for - but independent of - Y with the provisos that either

a) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, then R^2 is the group $-C(=NR^{10})-SR^9$ or

b) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, and R^2 is the group $-C(=X)-NHR^{10}$, then R^{10} is the group (G_b) , or

c) where R is a nicotinyl acid group in free acid form, salt form or ester form, R^2 is the group $-C(=X)-NHR^{10}$ and R^{10} is the group (G_a) , then either

i) one of Z, Z^1 and Z^2 is selected from C_{2-5} alkenyl, C_{1-8} alkylthio and C_{1-8} haloalkoxy,

or

ii) Z^1 is C_{1-8} alkyl, Z^2 is halogen or C_{1-8} alkyl and Z is H, or

iii) Z1 and Z2 are both bromo, and Z is H, or

iv) R4 is 2-hydroxyethyl,

and an agriculturally acceptable diluent.

2. The composition of Claim I wherein R' is the carboxy group in free form, in salt form or in the ester form COOR⁵,

Y is H, halogen, C1-4alkyl or C1-45alkoxy,

R3 is CH3 or C2H5,

R4 is H, CH3, C2H5 or 2-hydroxyethyl,

R5 is C1-4alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, allyl, C1-4haloalkyl or CH(R11)-O-C(O)-R12,

R9 is C1-4alkyl, C2-5alkenyl, phenyl or benzyl,

R¹⁰ is either group G_a in which

Wis CH,

ZisH

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 Z^1 is H, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₅alkenyl, C₁₋₈alkylthio, C₁₋₈alkoxy, C₁₋₈haloalkoxy, halogen or CF₃, and Z^2 is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen or C₁₋₄alkoxy or is 2-thiazole or 5-(C₁₋₄alkyl)-2-(I,3,4-thiadiazole), R¹¹ is H or CH₃, and

R12 is C1-8alkyl.

3. The composition of Claim I or 2, wherein R is group G1.

4. The composition of Claim I or 2, wherein R is group G9.

5. The composition of Claim I or 2, wherein R is selected from the groups G2 to G8.

6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein R is group G2.

7. The composition of Claim 3, wherein R2 is the group -C(=NR10)-SR9.

 $\overline{8}$. The composition of Claim 4, wherein R^2 is the group $-C(=NR^{10})-SR^9$.

 $\overline{9}$. The composition of Claim 5, wherein R² is the group -C(=NR¹⁰)-SR⁹.

IO. The composition of Claim 6, wherein R^2 is the group $-C(=NR^{10})-SR^9$.

II. The composition of Claim 6 wherein

R³ is CH₃ or C₂H₅,

R4 is H, CH3 or C2H5,

Z1 is H, C1-2alkyl, methoxy, halogen, CF3 or OCF3,

Z² is H, halogen, methyl or methoxy,

R2 is C(X)-NHR10,

R5 is CH(R11)-O-C(O)-R12,

R¹¹ is H, methyl, ethyl or sec. butyl,

and R12 is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, sec. butyl or tert. butyl,

12. The composition of Claim 6, wherein R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R¹¹, R¹² and Z² are as defined in Claim II and Z¹ is OCHF₂ or OCF₂-CHF₂.

13. The composition of Claim 6, wherein R², R³, R⁴ and Z² are as defined in Claim II, Z¹ is H, C₁₋₂alkyl, methoxy, halogen, CF₃, OCF₃, OCHF₂ or OCHF₂-CHF₂ and R⁵ is C₁₋₄alkyl, CH₂CF₃ or phenyl.

14. The composition of any one of Claims I to I3, wherein X is O.

15. Herbicidal composition comprising

3-acetyl-4-isothiazolecarboxylic acid 4-(3-fluorophenyl)semicarbazone, in free acid form, salt form or ester form.

65 16. The composition of Claim I5 comprising the compound defined in Claim I5 in free acid form.

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17. The composition of Claim I5 comprising the compound defined in Claim I5 in salt form. 18. Process of preparing a compound of formula (A) stated in Claim I, which comprises a) reacting a compound of formula I $R - C(=0)-R^3$ wherein R and R3 are as defined in Claim I 5 with a compound of formula II H₂N - NR²R⁴ wherein R2 and R4 are as defined in Claim I. followed, where desired, by esterifying compounds of formula (A) wherein R' is the carboxyl group to compounds (A) wherein R' is the carboxyl-ester group, or 10 b) S-alkylating a compound of formula A1 15 (A_1) wherein R, R3, R4 and R10 are as defined in Claim I, 20 with a halogenide of formula III R⁹Hal wherein R9 is as defined in Claim I, Hal is halogen, 25 or a reactive functional derivative of said compound of formula III to give a compound of formula (A2) 30 35

wherein R, R3, R4, R9 and R10 are as defined in Claim I,

and isolation thereby any compound of formula (A), wherein R' is carboxy in free form or in salt form.

19. A method of combatting weds which comprises applying to the locus thereof a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (A) as defined in any one of Claims I to I7.

20. The method of Claim I9 which comprises selectively combatting weeds in a crop locus.

21. The method of Claims 20 which comprises applying a compound as defined in any one of Claims 6 and II to I7 to a corn (maize) or soybean locus.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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	* Claims *		-	·
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1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
Y:p:	VIENNA CATEGORY OF CITED DOCL articularly relevant if taken alone articularly relevant if combined w	E: earlier pa after the (tent documer ilina date	BRUS erlying the invention it, but published on, or application
A: te	ocument of the same category echnological background on-written disclosure itermediate document		of the same pa	er reasons atent family, corresponding



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				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (int. Cl.4)
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	The present search report has	been drawn up for all claims		
	Place of search	Date of completion of the sear	ch l	Examiner
	VIENNA	12-11-1987		BRUS
¥.:	CATEGORY OF CITED DOC particularly relevant if taken alon particularly relevant if combined document of the same category technological background non-written disclosure intermediate document	CUMENTS T: theory E: earlier after the country country country with another D: document L:	or principle uno patent docume re filing date lent cited in the lent cited for other	derlying the invention nt, but published on, or application ner reasons
A: !	technological background	8 · memb		atent family, corresponding

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